WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1.   A method performed by a client device for highlighting search terms in documents distributed over a network, comprising:

generating a search query including a search term;

receiving a list of one or more references to documents in the network in response to the

5   search query;

receiving selection of one of the references;

retrieving a document corresponding to the selected reference; and

highlighting the search term in the retrieved document.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the highlighting includes:

10   automatically searching the retrieved document to locate each occurrence of the search

term, and

for each occurrence of the search term, changing a characteristic of the search term in the

retrieved document.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the changing includes:

15   changing at least one of a color, font, style, effect, and size of the search term in the

retrieved document.

4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing the retrieved document with the highlighted search term to a user.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the references include links to documents in the network.

5   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the generating includes:

sending the search query to one of a search engine and a web directory to obtain the list of one or more references.

7.   A system for highlighting search terms in documents remotely distributed over a network to aid in the determination of relevance of the documents, comprising:

10   means for generating a search query including one or more search terms;

means for receiving a list of one or more references to documents in the network in response to the search query;

means for receiving selection of one of the references;

means for retrieving a document corresponding to the selected reference; and

15   means for highlighting the one or more search terms in the retrieved document.

8.   A client device that highlights search terms in documents remotely distributed over a network to aid in the determination of relevance of the documents, comprising:

20

a memory configured to store instructions; and

a processor configured to execute the instructions in the memory to generate a search query that includes a search term, obtain a list of one or more references to documents in the network using the search query, obtain selection of one of the references, retrieve a document

5 corresponding to the selected reference, and highlight the search term in the retrieved document.

9. A browser assistant that interacts with a browser on a client device, comprising:

instructions for generating a search query including a search term;

instructions for obtaining a list of one or more links to documents distributed over a network using the search query;

10 instructions for obtaining selection of one of the links;

instructions for retrieving a document corresponding to the selected link; and

instructions for highlighting the search term in the retrieved document.

10. A computer-readable medium that stores instructions executable by at least one processor, comprising:

15 a browser configured to generate a search query that includes a search term, receive a list of one or more references to documents distributed over a network in response to the search query, receive selection of one or more of the references, and retrieve one or more documents corresponding to the selected one or more references; and

21

a browser assistant configured to intercept the one or more documents, highlight the search term in the one or more documents, and present the one or more documents, with the highlighted search term, to a user.

11.   The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein when highlighting, the

5   browser assistant is configured to identify the search term in the one or more documents and, for each occurrence of the search term in the one or more documents, change a characteristic of the search term.

12.   A web browser, comprising:

instructions for obtaining a search term;

10   instructions for generating a search query from the search term;

instructions for obtaining a list of one or more references to documents distributed over a network using the search query;

instructions for retrieving a document corresponding to one of the one or more references;

15   instructions for highlighting each occurrence of the search term in the retrieved document; and

instructions for displaying the highlighted document to a user.